Amendment to the Abstract:

Please delete the "Abstract of the Invention", and insert therein a new Abstract of the Invention as follows:

--<u>ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION</u>

5   A method for pre-computing net route attributes for a region of an integrated circuit (IC) is presented. In one embodiment, the pre-computed attribute is the intersect cost associated with a group of previously identified sub-region edges. In another embodiment, the pre-computed attribute is the usage cost associated with a group of previously identified sub-region paths. Such pre-computed attributes may be used by an electronic design 10   automation application that defines routes for nets in the IC region.--